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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. V FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 1944 No. 33

CEYLON, BASE FOR COUNTER-OFFENSIVE

Admiral Layton

The move of South-East Asia Command Headquarters to Ceylon marks a further stage in the organization of full-scale offensive against Japan. This fact should be an inspiration and stimulus to us all but we must guard against impatience and over-optimism

Eventually, we can expect that the Supreme Allied Commander will move his headquarters into the re-conquered territory. But while he is here Ceylon will become the object of world attention to a degree not known before and during this phase, which is just starting, Ceylon's maximum effort will be required

Just over two years ago the Japanese made their attacks on Colombo and Trincomalee. We do not forget this and it is fitting as well as most gratifying that Ceylon, where the tide of Japanese aggression was first checked, will now become the base for counter-offensive of the United Nations

The war in the East will outlast the war in Europe, and we must be prepared for prolonged exertion in conditions that make necessary effort difficult—when the danger of invasion is passed and war weariness is growing. In the end, Ceylon's war effort will amount to an endurance test

ADMIRAL SIR GEOFFREY LAYTON, *Commander-in-Chief, Ceylon, at a Press Conference on Monday*

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[Note.—*The summary of news and comments contained in the* Madras War Review *generally relate to events and statements published till Wednesday, every week.*]

THE BOOT NOW ON THE OTHER FOOT

"To-day, it is almost perfect peace as compared with those days, in fact, the boot is now on the other foot. The people in the streets are looking much happier and confirm me in the belief that the people are confident about the coming victory."

Sir FIROZ KHAN NOON, *recalling the days of the* blitz *when he was in London as High Commissioner, in a B.B.C. broadcast, on Tuesday.*

❖

UPPERMOST OBJECT

"So far as the political situation in India is concerned I say with confidence that the country is probably the most peaceful in the world to-day.

There is one object uppermost in the minds of all people in India, including critics of Great Britain, and that is to defeat our enemies, particularly the Japanese. So far as this aspect of the war is concerned there are really no two opinions in India."

Sir FIROZ KHAN NOON, *India's representative in the War Cabinet in a broadcast from London, on Tuesday.*

❖

ONE IN A THOUSAND

"The number of sinkings under convoy had been reduced to one in one thousand. We are planning for a more active war against Japan."

Lord CHATFIELD, *Admiral of the Fleet, in London, on Wednesday.*

❖

TWICE IN ONE GENERATION

"Twice in one generation that strange and very formidable compound of docility and ferocity which makes up German mentality has brought disaster on the world. The British Government will take every step, however inconvenient it might be, to prevent a recurrence and no tenderness for the enemy or the troubles it might involve for him will be allowed to stand in the way."

Lord CHERWELL, *in the House of Commons, on Wednesday.*

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ON THE IMPHAL FRONT

"WE are now on top, and we must remain on top," said Lord Louis Mountbatten addressing the 17th Indian Division on the Imphal battle front, on Saturday. The Supreme Allied Commander of South-East Asia has summed up in these words the situation in that area. The fighting has been more or less confined to the semi-circle east off the line formed by the Manipur road up to Kohima in the north and Tiddim road 37 miles from Imphal in the south, with the Imphal plain as its centre. Local actions in the Imphal plain which covers a vast area of 700 square miles, were reported in a S.E.A.C. Communiqué a week ago. Previously the fighting was confined to the north and north-east of Imphal, from which Japanese forces crept forward through the hills and valleys. A war correspondent describes the fighting in this area as mostly a grim game of hide and seek—the Japs doing all the hiding and the Allies all the seeking.

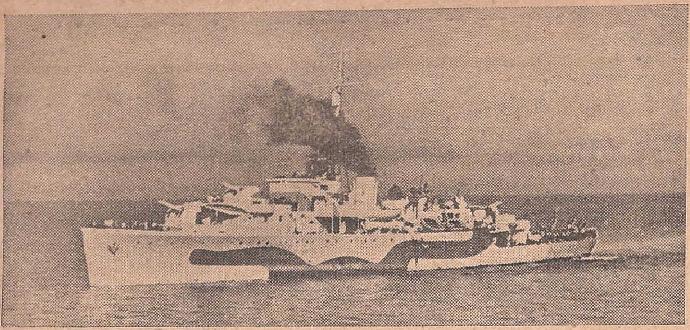
SO far as the Imphal plain is concerned, it is entirely in our hands. The forces defending it have certain solid advantages. They hold the roads entering the plain from the south by which alone the Japanese can bring up their heavy weapons. It is true that the rearward communications of our forces may be temporarily cut, but they can be supplied from the air. These advantages are stressed by *The Times* in a leading article on the Burma Campaign published last week. The journal goes on to point out that while our troops retain their key positions, their mobile columns, which are provided with tanks and guns, attack Japanese detachments whose armaments are only what they can carry on their backs or bring by pack mules through the forests. "Nor should it be forgotten," says *The Times*, "that the law of diminishing returns applies to operations of such forces. They start with the advantage of surprise but with the handicap of relatively light hitting power, and this applies equally to our air-borne troops in northern Burma. Unless they can be supplied with food and ammunition from the air, as Wingate's columns have been, and are supplied, or by pack convoys which are liable to interception as soon as they leave the forests, their fighting value diminishes with every cartridge fired and every day's rice consumed." Further, considerable losses are inflicted on the enemy who is finding that things are not going so smoothly for him after his initial push towards the Imphal plain, as he expected.

IT is not possible to say as yet when the main battle, for which Allied dispositions have long been made, will take place around Imphal or around Kohima, but in view of the fact that Kohima was more important to the Japanese, every effort was made to strongly resist the Jap pressure from the north. It may be pointed out that the enemy developed the considerable movement on the northern flank against the road junction of Kohima, about 65 miles north of Imphal by road and about 30 miles south-east of the railway at Dimapur and surrounded the Kohima garrison. Our troops have broken through the enemy's strong road block positions on the Kohima–Dimapur road, and contacted the garrison.

AS regards Imphal, the Japanese had, after the occupation of Tiddim and Tammu, the advantage of good roads northwards and northwestwards to the town. If they can get heavy materials and supplies to the road-heads, they may have a better prospect of debouching in strength into the Imphal plain. At the time of writing, there has not been much activity south of the Imphal plain on the Tiddim road; west of Bishenpore and south of the track to Silchar, bitter fighting is going on for a hill feature; and in the north-east of the Imphal plain, our infantry, supported by tanks, have made further advances.

IN the Mogaung Valley, General Stilwell's forces are edging forward, thanks to tank and air co-operation. Units of the 38th Chinese Division have reached the Lankraw river east of the road and south of Tingring, and troops of the 22nd Chinese Division have come to clash with the enemy in Warazup. Two important successes scored by Allied forces in this area are the repulse of a Jap attack on one of the air-strips in the heart of occupied territory and the defeat of the enemy at the rail-road block on the line to Myitkyina. Japanese counter-attacks here have not succeeded because of the establishment of Allied bases and air-strips and the continued initiative and resourcefulness of the Chindits groups, which effectively strike at vulnerable spots in the Japanese network of communications. The Chindits have seen to it that so far the enemy did not achieve his main object of ham-stringing the Chinese-American threat down the Hukawng and Mogaung valleys to the key towns of northern Burma.

AS we said in an earlier article, the issue of the fighting on the Assam frontier and in northern Burma will be decided, not by mere encirclement or counter-encirclement, but by a real trial of strength in a pitched battle on open ground.



A new photograph of H.M.I.S, Jumna *under way. This R.I.N. sloop did invaluable work while escorting convoys in Malayan and Dutch East Indies waters in the winter of* 1941–42. *She destroyed at least four Japanese bombers in repelling air attacks.*

RUNNING COMMENTARY

U-boat Warfare—Churchill-Roosevelt Statement—Hitler's "principal weapon" and how it worked

In a joint statement issued on April 9, Prime Minister CHURCHILL and PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT have reviewed the present situation in regard to the war against U-boats. They have pointed out that, during the previous month, the Germans operated in widely-dispersed areas from the Bering Sea to the Indian Ocean and that they persevered vainly in their strenuous endeavours to disrupt Allied flow of supplies to Russia by the northern route. Referring to merchant shipping losses, they have stated that these were mainly incurred in the far distant seas and that although these were a little higher than the figures for February they were still low. The Allied merchant fleet is continuing to increase both in quality and quantity. As regards the U-boats, their strength remains considerable and calls for powerful efforts by surface and air forces. This joint statement once again underlines the importance of the Battle of the Atlantic and the need for blunting what HITLER called his "principal weapon" against Britain.

From the time HITLER found himself at war with Great Britain, he was keenly aware that there was one sphere in which he was not assured of superiority over his enemies, namely, sea power. In spite of his great painstaking attempts to increase German naval power, he found he could not succeed in attaining superiority at sea. He thought that the best thing to do was to reduce the Allied control of the sea to the minimum and therefore concentrated on the construction of U-boats with a view to sinking Allied and neutral shipping.

* * *

Hitler's Confidence and Berlin's Boast about Battle of Atlantic

HITLER was indeed very confident of the ultimate success of his U-boats in bringing about a water-tight blockade of Britain and the Berlin radio had been in season and out of season indulging in proud boasts of the havoc brought by the U-boats. Four years ago (August 6, 1940) the Berlin radio declared :

> "Britain has been completely blockaded. She has now only two alternatives—either starvation or collapse."

The next day (August 7), Berlin claimed that

> "The sinking and the destroying of the whole British shipping will become a matter of two months."

After about 12 months passed, GOEBBELS began to pitch his claims in a lower key. On July 4, 1941 Radio Zeesen said :

> "Germany will win the war simply by continuing the present rate of sinkings during the next few months."

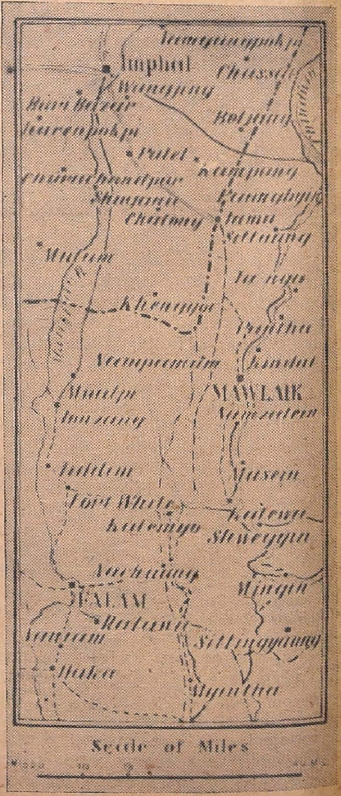
Another year passed. In August 1942 German Home radio told the world :

> "The Battle of the Atlantic is already lost for the British."

Things did not look very bright at this time, for though the Allied offensive against the U-boats had its own effect, the sinkings of Allied shipping was pretty high. "The losses at sea" said Mr. CHURCHILL in the House of Commons on September 8, 1942, "are still very heavy, but I am glad to say that the months of July, August and September as far as it has run, are a definite improvement on those which preceded them."

1943 saw a turn of the tide. The anti-submarine war, effective preparations for which were programmed in 1942, began to pay dividends. Speaking in the House of Commons on February 11, 1943, Mr. CHURCHILL said,

> "Progress is being made in the war against U-boats. We are holding our own, and more than holding our own."



Down the Imphal front.

THE GERMANS ARE NOT "INVINCIBLE"—THEY ARE ONLY "INVISIBLE"!

—*Specially drawn for the* MADRAS WAR REVIEW.

Three and a half months afterwards Mr. ANTHONY EDEN speaking at Portsmouth said :

"The news of the Atlantic continues to be encouraging. Our new construction of merchant ships is still mounting, our merchant shipping losses are still decreasing, and the sinking of U-boats is still increasing. The battle of the U-boat still rages. It is not yet decided, but at least we feel better about it than we have done."

In spite of the fact that replacement of Allied merchant shipping was many times the rate of sinkings and in spite of successes of anti-U-boat measures, German propaganda was going on in the old strain. On January 1, 1943 Berlin said :

"The German U-boat arm is becoming a more powerful weapon from month to month. . . . It certainly does not look as if the German U-boats are going to be the first to give up the race."

2

ST. GEORGE'S DAY—1944

(*By* R.G.)

St. George's Day. St. George's work—
To seek the dragons where they lurk
And striking with a cunning hand
To end the ravage of the land
No easy quest is yours, to slay
The grim and bloated beast of prey
Whose claws are murder and his breath
A sour, oppressive stench of death.
Coiled in his fastness he defies
The champion's spear with baleful eyes,
And laps himself in triple scale
More tough than proven coat of mail.
Be your heart great, this age's knight,
Your weapon tempered, keen and bright!
While now toward the smoky lair
You stride, the shadowed peoples' prayer
Calls heaven in truth's and mercy's name
To give your stroke unerring aim.
Good hope be yours and ours, who pray
Deliverance, on St. George's Day!

A month after Berlin announced that the "British Empire is in danger of being annihilated by the periscopes. Allied shipping losses are increasing day by day." But later the tone changed. On May 6th, Admiral LUETZOW, the well-known German naval spokesman said :

"It is not to be hoped that the submarine successes will mount steadily . . . The enemy left no stone unturned to defend himself successfully against the submarines."

Two months later (July 1943) he said :

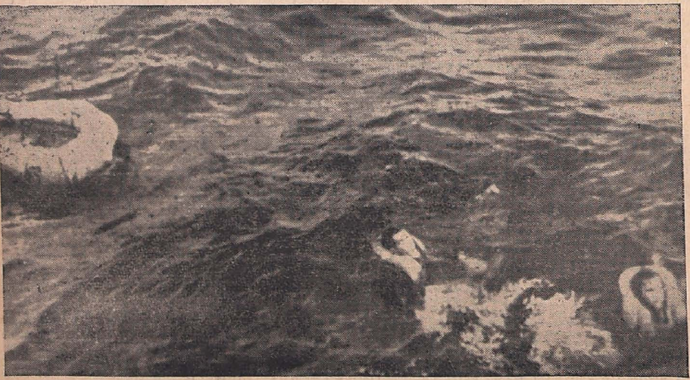
"Our enemies have intensified their anti-U-boat defences. Consequently any action in which our ships are involved from the moment they leave their home bases until they return has become a hard struggle which knows no pause . . . The battle our U-boats have to wage has become very hard . . . In short, the enemy at present has the upper hand. He is trying to develop still further his means of defence, but we also are straining every energy to wrest from him the advantageous position he holds."

FIGHTING IN THE CHIN HILLS.—In the high jungle-covered mountains of the Chin Hills, in tropical rain or snow, a relentless war has been waged against the Japs by Gurkha, British and Indian troops aided by the Chin Levies, ever since Allied forces withdrew from Burma in 1942. Silent in their movements and killings, the Chins have gained a great reputation as jungle fighters as also the respect of the Japanese. This struggle goes on and the Japs are now finding life less healthy than they imagined would be.

Not a fort, but this is Fort White so often in the news.

* * *

The means of defence referred to by Admiral LUETZOW are mainly the building of more and better Allied ships and their improved handling. Increase in the number of ships provides a cushion against losses and helps the transport of men and material to various war zones. The great volume of new shipping construction very nearly defeated the U-boats. It may be recalled that Mr. CHARLES WILSON, Executive Vice-Chairman of the U.S. War Production Board, announced recently that building of merchant ships in the United States had increased from 1,088,000 in 1941 to 19,000,000 tons in 1943. As for 1944 he stated that there will be an 80 per cent increase over the 1943 record. Further there has also been an enormous increase in British, Canadian and Australian shipbuilding. So great has been the increase that it may be said that the sinkings at sea are more than compensated by new shipbuilding.



Sloops of the Second Escort Group of the Royal Navy under the command of the Navy's ace U boat killer, Captain F. J. Walker, C.B., D.S.O., and Double Bar, recently scored a hat-trick in sinking in one period of 16 hours. In 20 days the sloops routed a U-boat pack waiting to attack Allied convoys in the North Atlantic and accounted for the certain destruction of six German submarines. Not a single ship in the convoy was lost. This is the most devastating blow ever delivered against U-boats in a single patrol since the beginning of the war. The First Lord of the Admiralty, Mr. A. V. Alexander, was present to greet the ships on return to port and described the cruise as one of the greatest, perhaps, the greatest, of the war.

The total score to date of this group is 17 German submarines sunk for certain, besides a number damaged.

Some of the U-boats' crew swimming to H.M.S. Starling *to be picked up.*

* * *

Allied Counter-offensive against U-boat Menace

There is another aspect of the U-boat warfare which deserves attention, and that is, the Allied counter-offensive which is designed to eliminate the submarines themselves. There has been a great increase and improvement in the means of combating the U-boat menace. This has not only brought about a lessening in the number of losses of merchant ships, but also greater submarine casualties. It may be that German submarine yards are replacing the U-boat losses, but it is as well to point out that Allied air attacks against these bases and on German industry generally are making the task of the Germans difficult, if not impossible.

GENERAL AUCHINLECK AT MUTTRA.—General Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief, India, recently visited the Field Artillery Training Centre and other Units at Muttra.

Madrassi gunners at gun drill, watched by the Commander-in-Chief. It was men like these that distinguished themselves at Bir Hacheim, fighting to the bitter end against heavy German attack.

The offensive phase of the U-boat war falls under four heads, namely, (1) air attacks on U-boat building yards; (2) air attacks on U-boat pens and bases in France and Holland; (3) air attacks on German industries and elsewhere where U-boat parts are made; (4) attacks on U-boats at sea by aircraft and escorting vessels. The effect of Allied measures to tackle the U-boats is clear from an admission made by ADOLF WAGNER reported by the *Volkischer Beobachter*. (WAGNER was one of HITLER's oldest colloborators, and his death was reported by Berlin on Monday.) According to this report the German leader said:

> "We have been compelled practically to cease U-boat operations because the enemy succeeded in finding an effective means of defence."

* * *

Another Doenitz Offensive expected—Allied convoys to Russia

This does not however mean that the U-boat has ceased to be a menace to Allied shipping. Last month (March 7) Mr. A. V. ALEXANDER, Britain's First Lord of Admiralty, stated in the House of Commons that a renewed effort by Admiral DOENITZ over expanded areas may be expected and that Germany's U-boat strength was still considerable. He showed that war against U-boats had taken a favourable turn for the Allies and made no secret of the dangers that lay ahead. In a recent statement, Colonel KNOX, the U. S. Navy Secretary, said that U-boats in larger numbers might begin to operate in the North Atlantic.

So far, the U-boats operated mostly in the Atlantic and the North Sea, but the Allied counter-offensive has practically driven them out of these waters. This has made them extend their operations over widely dispersed waters, and it was to this that increased shipping losses in March, referred to in the joint statement of Mr. CHURCHILL and PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, are due. They are also due to the fact that there has been a larger number of U-boat attacks on convoys bound for Russia. These convoys are mainly defended by escort vessels and aircraft, and until such time that an increased number of escort vessels are available, such losses may be expected. But on account of the tempo of Allied production, it may not be long before this lack of escort vessels is remedied.

The CHURCHILL-ROOSEVELT statement refers to attacks on Allied convoys going to Russia. The Germans have been trying for a considerably long time to prevent Allied supplies from reaching Russia and they have taken great risks to do so. It may be recalled that four months ago (December 26, 1943) the Germans risked and lost their mighty battleship *Scharnhorst* when they attacked the convoy off the North Cape. Another great calamity suffered by them was the crippling of the 42,000-ton German battleship *Tirpitz* at the beginning of this month (April 3). The fact that Allied supplies are reaching Russia in ever-increasing volume is a tangible proof of the success of the anti-submarine offensive.

In his statement on March 7, Mr. A. V. ALEXANDER estimates the U-boat strength as being as much as it

(*Continued on page 15.*)

A dramatic scene on the bridge of the sloop H.M.S. Starling *as Captain Walker clutches a hastily grabbed sandwhich and takes bearing on one of the submerged U-boats.*

BRITAIN'S PRINCESS CHARMING

By HECTOR BOLITHO

H. M. The King.

H. M. The Queen.

WHEN Tennyson was an old man he went to tea with Queen Victoria. As he was leaving, the old poet said to her, "You are so alone on that terrible height." The education of heirs to the Throne towards "that terrible height" is one of the most tantalizing themes in history: a theme which has often brought unhappiness to the family life of monarchs and their children.

It is because Princess Elizabeth was brought up by the parents who never even dreamed that they would come to the Throne that we need not be disturbed by these ancestral voices. The marriage of her parents was in accordance with the domestic policy laid down by Queen Victoria when her daughter married the Marquess of Lorne, afterwards Governor of Canada. The Queen said that she placed "only small political importance" on marriages with European royalties. From her own experience, she knew that domestic happiness was as necessary to princes as to any other people in the land.

When Princess Elizabeth's parents were married, they lived in modest houses and they succeeded in making their own life, away from the glare of London. The King once said, "I am not palace-minded", and this fact influenced all Princess Elizabeth's childhood. It is an amusing sidelight on the simplicity of her mind that when she had to leave her modest home in Piccadilly and go to live in the space and gilt of Buckingham Palace, she asked if an underground passage could be dug so that she could go back to her old home to sleep at night.

LESSONS AT HER MOTHER'S KNEE

During the early years of her life, Princess Elizabeth was little noticed by the mass of people. Then came the summer when she began to spend her Sundays with her grandparents at Windsor. In the afternoon the townspeople used to walk along the terrace in front of the Castle, to listen to the band.

I used to join them sometimes, standing on the East Terrace, to look over the park where the first Elizabeth shot buck and where Shakespeare's Falstaff made his ignominious journey in the washing basket. One Sunday afternoon, Queen Mary appeared at the window of the Castle, holding up a little girl for us to see. She waved us a podgy hand through the glass.

But these public appearances were rare and when Pressmen tried to photograph Princess Elizabeth, she frowned and gave an impression of unwillingness. It was only the shyness which was natural to the way she was being brought up. When she was a little older, her parents were given the Royal Lodge in Windsor Park, as a country home.

It was here that Princess Elizabeth learned her first history of England, where so much of that history had been made. But it was learned at her mother's knee. Her first lessons in writing and reading were simple and thorough. And there was a weekly dancing class where her first gift was noticed: her grace and her poise. She moves to-day with an engaging quality of grace and stillness which startled those who saw her inspect her Regiment of Foot-Guards for the first time in the quadrangle at Windsor.

The prevailing grace of Princess Elizabeth's character began to show itself at the beginning of the war. Her parents had already noticed that when she played card games with children younger than herself, she always helped them. It was the first expression of the unselfishness which now dominates her character.

One day when she was lunching with some older people, without her mother and father, she found herself between an old friend and a visitor who was shy and silent. She devoted herself to the stranger and said to the old friend afterwards, "I hope you did not mind, but he was shy and I felt that I ought to devote myself to him."

AS SHE IS TO-DAY

This story stirs a wish to see the Princess as she is to-day. Imagine a castle on a cold afternoon, with the towers rising high above the bank of the Thames. The clock in the Curfew Tower strikes three—the same clock that struck the hours for Gray when he wrote his elegy in Stoke Poges churchyard, 200 years ago.

Up from the stables walks a man leading two horses. From the door of the castle step two figures, one still young with the quick movements of childhood; the other taller, girlish and slim, moving with alert grace. Her shyness has gone. When she meets you, she extends her hand and smiles with complete acceptance. She has inherited the quality which made Sargent write of her mother as the "only completely unconscious sitter" he had ever painted.

The man with the horses is waiting. Princess Elizabeth waits until Princess Margaret has mounted her horse and then she climbs into the saddle. Her hair is no longer as fair as it was, but

it still has golden lights and a natural wave. Her eyes are big, blue-grey and quick with intelligence. She has the astonishing complexion which is the birthright of the Royal family.

We see her wait, watching Princess Margaret with the motherly care she adopted long ago towards her younger sister. Then they ride off through the park where the monarchs of 900 years have walked. Her education and training have been too careful for her to be allowed to worry over much about the place she may take in the tremendous procession of the centuries.

But ever since her father was crowned King, she has been trained towards that knowledge, with such naturalness that there is no hint of it in her manner or her speech. One reason for this is the atmosphere of the Court which the King and Queen have created about them.

Here indeed is an important achievement in their lives—an atmosphere which must have a fine influence on Princess Elizabeth's growing mind. She lives in a Court of exceptional men and women who are gifted with tact, sense and humour. There is none of the gossip and jealousy which has wrecked many a prince's life when he has been surrounded by the wrong people.

THE STORY OF A PANTOMIME

I went to see the Princesses acting in their Christmas pantomime, "Aladdin" presented in the country house. The players were children from the forest school, aided by a corporal from the Life Guards. The audience was made up of members of the Court, people from the town near by, friends and servants, with about a hundred soldiers scattered among them. In front were the King and Queen. The curtain went up and we saw "A Street in Peking." Very soon Princess Elizabeth appeared, with Princess Margaret. They were "Aladdin" and "Princess Rexana." Widow Twankey, their "mother", was a schoolboy with an uncommon talent for burlesque.

It was a simple children's pantomime, produced on a stage at the end of a big room. The two Princesses tap-danced and they sang. They were especially funny when, with Widow Twankey, they impersonated three old women "called in to oblige"; the phrase used in England to describe that particular type of Cockney woman who chars by the day.

The jokes were local and the fun was made at the expense of the audience. It was a jolly, modest and very pretty entertainment. Out of it shone a refreshed conviction of Princess Elizabeth's unselfishness. Alone, she danced and sang quite beautifully, but when the others were on the stage, she was self-effacing and helpful.

MONARCHY'S SERVICE

Two thoughts remained with me as I walked down the hill, when the pantomime was over. The first hovered about the word "service." It is what the Americans call a shy-making word. Yet this word is the essence of Princess Elizabeth's life.

It is a peculiar service that monarchy performs. The people of Britain like to feel as they pass Buckingham Palace that inside are living the members of a contented and good family. Princess Elizabeth is one of that family. It is still as part of that family that we think of her, just, although she is being educated now as heir to the Throne.

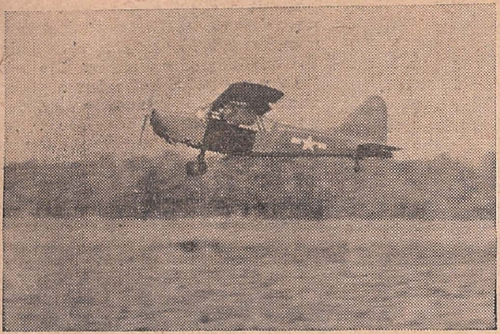
About a quarter of a century ago, when the present King was still a young man, he made his first speech, outlining the qualities of leadership. He said, "To my mind a leader must possess three great qualities: personality, sympathy and, above all, idealism . . . Nobody can lead unless he has the gift of vision and the desire in his soul to leave things in the world a little better than he found them."

He has kept the promise of that young speech and he has instilled its meaning into his daughter. It is already apparent in her growing mind and character.

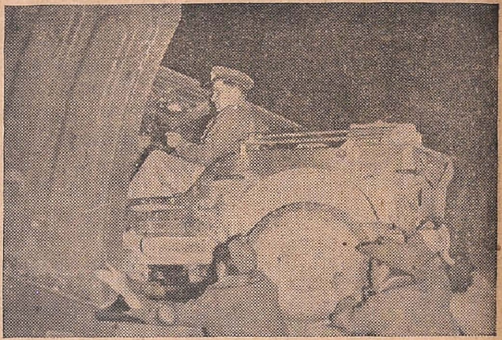
The Royal Princesses at home. Princess Elizabeth celebrates her 18th birthday on April 21, 1944.

FIRST AIRBORNE LANDINGS IN BURMA

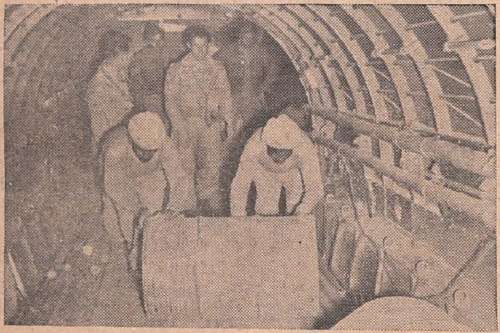
[Crossing the 7,000 feet high Chin Hills, columns of General Slim's 14th Army were flown into Burma and landed 200 miles behind the Japanese lines.]



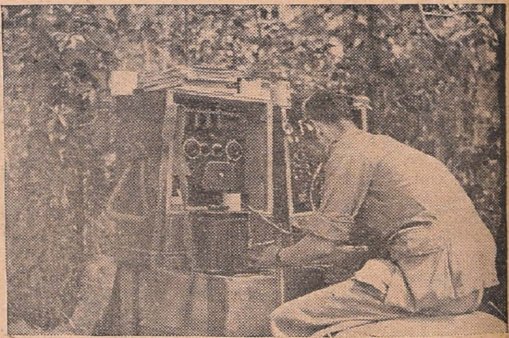
An American Stinson Aircraft taking off from the airfield.



A Jeep being loaded into one of the transport aircraft at a supply base.

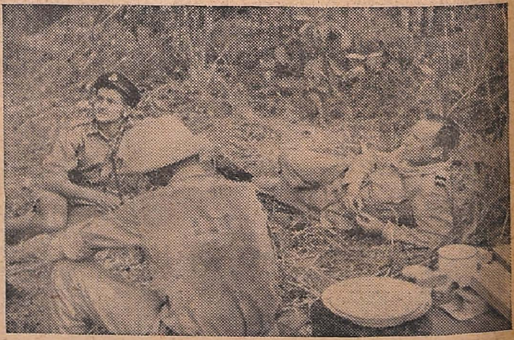


A fifty-gallon drum of oil being rolled into one of the transport aircraft by two Indian soldiers.



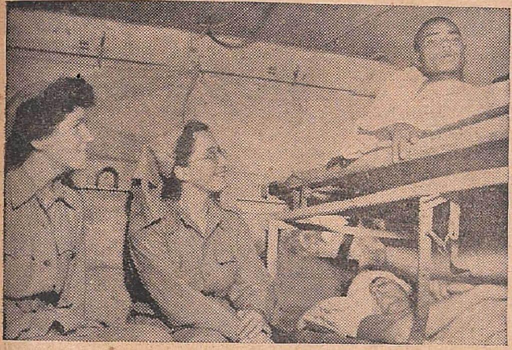
Concealed by trees a wireless operator uses a receiving and transmitting set which keeps the newly established airfield in constant touch with Advanced Headquarter in India.

Between Alerts some of the ground crew snatch a hasty meal.

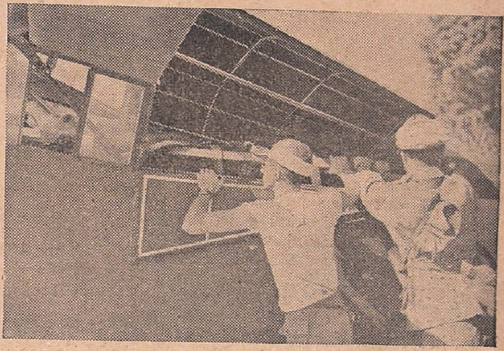


An Air Commodore chats to pilots at their dispersal point on our new airfield inside Burma.

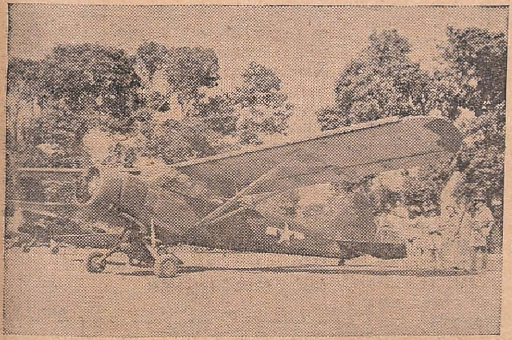
EVACUATION OF WOUNDED BY AIR



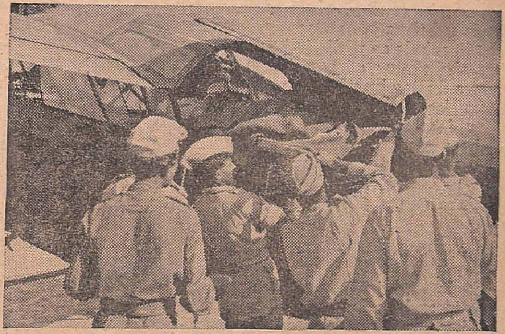
Sitting in an ambulance N/O S. G. McDermoth, Q.A.I.M.N.S., of Prestbury, Cheltenham, chats with patients who are awaiting an ambulance aircraft.



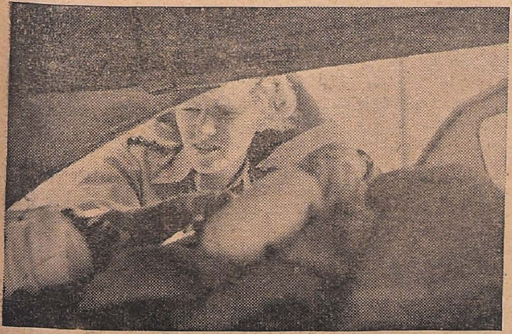
Stretcher cases are carefully put aboard the aircraft from the ambulances which brought them to the tiny landing strip.



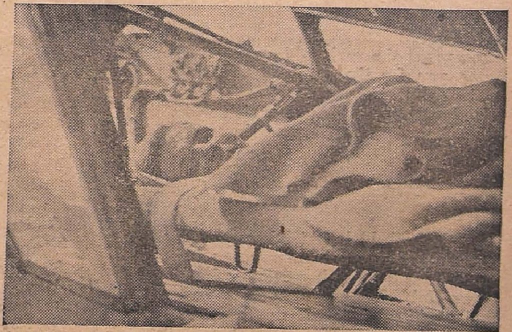
An American 'plane awaits patients.'



Pte. Woodcock of Leyton, London, is carefully lifted aboard the midget Stinson aircraft which will fly him from the battlefield.



On arrival at an airfield, close-by the Base Hospitcl, a nurse prepares to remove a patient from the Ambulance aircraft.



Suffering from petrol burns, Gnr. A. W. Gibson, 45, Mortha Street, Shadwell, London, E. 1., is seen in the small American aircraft which flew him to a base hospital. He is now recovering.

FREEDOM AND ITS MEANING

By R. GALLETTI, I.C.S.

IF we say that the United Nations are fighting this war for the preservation of freedom, we are no doubt telling the truth; but it is up to us to say what we mean by the word "freedom." Freedom and liberty are words of that large and useful but dangerous class which move the emotions without conveying any definite image to the mind. There are no definite and specific objects to which you can point and say "This is freedom." But the poets and orators have given the word splendour and enriched it with associations, till there are few words which so readily evoke a sentimental or emotional response; and in many countries and in many ages glib demagogues who themselves had no real notion of freedom in life or thought or government have used the word recklessly, knowing that in minds as undisciplined as their own the power of association would rouse a feeling by which masses of men might be moved, often enough to action incompatible with the freedom of the majority. Hitler's diddling of the German people is neither the first nor probably the last of such performances.

WORDS AND FACTS

Words tend to become independent of facts and to be used without any meaning. Stuart Chase in his entertaining and illuminating book *The Tyranny of Words* gives for example this piece of wind (which could be paralleled in the political oratory of any country):

> "The Aryan Fatherland, which has nursed the souls of heroes, calls upon you for the supreme sacrifice which you, in whom flows heroic blood, will not fail, and which will echo for ever down the corridors of history."

This would be translated (he remarks):

> "The blab blab which has nursed the blab of blabs, calls upon you for the blab blab which you, in whom flows blab blood, will not fail, and which will echo blab down the blabs of blab."

> "The 'blab' (he goes on) is not an attempt to be funny; it is a semantic blank. The hearer simply hears nothing comprehensible."

If then we want to say "freedom" and not mean "blab", we must define our meaning by referring the word to definite requirements in practice. Burke, in discussing the grievances of the American colonies, well said:

> "Abstract liberty, like other mere abstractions, is not to be found. Liberty inheres in some sensible object and every nation has formed to itself some favourite point, which by way of eminence becomes the criterion of their happiness."

SAVED OUT OF THE LAST WAR

And I invite you now to follow me in trying to determine what kind of "sensible objects" are fundamental for a free man in a free country, and what are the "favourite points" on which the English people in particular have insisted and still insist to the point of waging war and incurring death and destruction rather than risk having to do without them. For, as G. K. Chesterton magnificently declared in his Autobiography, something was saved out of the last Great War (the same thing that is to be saved again). Writing about the Beaconsfield War Memorial, he said:

> "The Memorial was set up. . . to commemorate the fact that something had been saved out of the Great War. What was saved was Beaconsfield; just as what was saved was Britain; not an ideal Beaconsfield, not a perfect or perfectly progressing Beaconsfield, not a New Beaconsfield with gates of gold and pearl descending out of Heaven from God; but Beaconsfield. A certain social balance, a certain mode of life, a certain tradition of morals and manners, some parts of which I regret, some parts of which I value, was in fact menaced by the fate of falling into a complete and perhaps permanent inferiority and impotence, as compared with another tradition and mode of life. It is all nonsense to say that in such a struggle defeat would not have been destruction, merely because it would probably not have been what is legally called annexation. States so defeated become vassal-states, retaining a merely formal independence, and in every vital matter steered by the diplomacy and penetrated by the culture of the conqueror. The men whose names are written on the Beaconsfield War Memorial died to prevent Beaconsfield being so immediately overshadowed by Berlin that all its reforms would be modelled on Berlin, all its products used for the international purposes of Berlin, even if the King of Prussia were not called in so many words the Suzerain of the King of England. They died to prevent it and they did prevent it. Let those who enjoy the thought insist that they died in vain.

THE INSUFFERABLE PRUSSIAN

Conflict came to a head in Europe because the Prussian was insufferable. What would he have been

YOUNG MEN

(*By* R.G.)

Young men I met in London, in shop and bus and bar,
Kindly, courteous, hopeful, with life's door just ajar,
Have gone with cheery whistling to journey long and far:
And reached the end of journeys and life and love and war.

Young men I met on Lassen on winter holiday,
Skiing, drinking, dancing, strong and tall and gay,
In Solomons and Marshalls a sterner skill assay:
And some are gaunt and grimy and some are dead this day.

Young men who slouched round Oxford in dirty corduroys,
Talking, smoking, idling, lax hobbledehoys,
Have taken wings and anger and put away the joys
Of green youth in green places, to die like other boys.

Young heirs of all the ages, you burnish and refine
The courage, worth and cleanness that seemed in '39
Doomed to a weary ending when Hitler sprang his mine;
And, dead, like moons that mirror undying honour shine.

like if he, who was already insufferable, had been shown to be insuperable? What would the Kaiser, with his Mailed Fist and his boasts of being Attila and the leader of the Huns, even in time of peace, have been like if he had issued completely victorious out of a universal war? Yet there is the common-sense question to be asked, if we are asking whether it was worth while for men to fight and go on fighting. It is not the point to put wild and visionary questions about whether the world has been vastly improved by the war; whether Utopia or the New Jerusalem have come out of the war; to ask in that apocalyptic fashion what has come out of the war. We have come out of the war, and come out alive; England and Europe have come out of the war, with all their sins on their heads, confused, corrupted, degraded; but not dead. The only defensible war is a war of defence. And a war of defence, by its very definition and nature, is one from which a man comes back battered and bleeding and only boasting that he is not dead.

NO BETTER AND NO WORSE

Those who now think too little of the Allied cause are those who once thought too much of it. Those who are disappointed with the great defence of civilization are those who expected too much of it. We never promised to put a final end to all war or work or worry. We only said we were bound to endure something very bad because the alternative was something worse. In short, we said what every man on the defensive has to say. Mr. Brown is attacked by a burglar and manages to save his life and property. It is absurd to turn round on him and say: "After all, what has come out of this battle in the back-garden? It is the same old Septimus Brown, with the same face, the same trousers, the same temper a little uncertain at breakfast, the same taste for telling the anecdote about the book-maker at Brighton." It is absurd to complain that Mr. Brown has not been turned into a Greek God merely by being bashed on the head by a burglar. He had a right to defend himself; he had a right to save himself; and what he saved was himself, so far no better and no worse.

That is what I mean by saying that for me the War Memorial of Beaconsfield commemorates the rescue of Beaconsfield; not of an ideal Beaconsfield, but of the real Beaconsfield. There are all sorts of things in such an English country town with which I do not agree; there are many which I have tried all my life to alter. I do not like the English landed system, with its absence of peasants and its predominance of squires; I do not like the formless religious compromise of Puritanism turning into Paganism; but I do not want it discredited and flattened out by Prussianism. The defence of its prestige and independence against an inhuman and heathen hegemony was just."

NECESSARY DISTINCTIONS

Before I go on to discuss English freedom in particular, I want to make some necessary distinctions. Logically and in fact there are different kinds of freedom, different classes of things that can be described by this word. We can in the first place distinguish freedom as Absolute, or Individual, or Collective. Of Absolute Freedom I do not propose to treat; the ordinary man does not hope to attain it and is not interested in it. It is described, so far as such a thing can be described, in the utterances of the great sages, in the pages of the Bhagavad Gita, the sayings of the Buddha, the writings of Spinoza, the conversations of Ramakrishna, as well as in the Christian gospels, and is summed up philosophically in the word 'detachment.' But not one individual in a million even begins to conceive it. I am now concerned with ordinary men going about their social and political affairs. To them freedom is in the first place their own personal liberties, and we can distinguish four main groups—first, the freedom of the body; second, the freedom of the mind; third, the freedom of action in society; fourth, the freedom of action in the political state. In the second place, there is the freedom collectively enjoyed, which is different according to the nature of the group—the freedom of the social group, the freedom of the political group, and quite different from these two which are enjoyed within the state, the freedom of the state itself, which is much better known by the more precise term "independence." The habit of calling both the independence of the state and the liberties of the individual by the same name of "freedom" has led to some of the most absurd confusions both in thinking and in talk, and so to absurdities in action.

POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE ASPECTS

I must further distinguish between what may be called the positive and negative aspects of freedom. It commonly happens that the desire for freedom is conceived and grows because of a felt denial of freedom; and so the mind is apt to think of freedom *from* something or other—freedom *from* bondage, freedom *from* oppression, freedom *from* taxes, freedom *from* want and fear and so on. This is well enough and true enough but far less important, I am inclined to believe, than the notion of freedom as a positive thing—freedom to do something or other. Without the power to act, freedom must be something blank and meaningless. This the American thinkers who wrote the Declaration of Independence and the Virginia Bill of Rights recognized and bracketed with liberty the pursuit of happiness. It is because individual man is so helpless against the forces of nature and the wild that liberty is found at its greatest not where at first thought we might expect to find it—where men are away from all coercion and restraint, in desert places and on remote frontiers—but where we might least expect to find it—in highly organized societies, with an elaborate system of law and police and rules inhibiting independence of action.

TO ACT AND TO DO

To an Englishman it is the freedom *to act* and *to do* which counts, and because he realizes this, he will not, when he thinks clearly, talk loosely as many do of freedom being a right or a "birthright." There is nothing more helpless and less free than a new-born baby; and no man or community can enjoy freedom of action, whether against nature, or against his fellows, or against a tyrant, unless he is willing to think for it, work for it, and sometimes fight for it. The English people made its freedom for itself by hardwork and not without mistakes in a process that has continued for over a thousand years. Freedom is not a right but an achievement—a system of rights constructed with care so that an impartial justice can secure to each man the power to think and act according to his abilities.

This is all very abstract. But before I go on to the English system as it stands, I ask you particularly to remember that the relation of 'freedom' to 'rights' and to 'justice' is the only way by which liberty in general, as distinct from particular liberties, can be defined. All men can be free only in a just society; and a just society is one in which rights are defined and maintained in such a way that none is oppressed even if all are to some degree restrained. In other societies particular men and groups can be free, but

those who have few rights or none, and those whose rights are not maintained, will be excluded from freedom.

And it will be right at this point to insist that the 'freedom' or rather the 'independence' of a nation has little enough to do with the freedom of its citizens. We did not need Nazi Germany to make this evident; but it is too often forgotten. And one of the claims of the English to the leadership of thought on freedom is that they have nearly always laid the stress where it ought to be—on the freedom of men, not the 'freedom' of the state. When they called in a Dutchman and later a Hanoverian to be their king, at a time when the monarch still had a great and even preponderant power in the state, they risked a little of their independence, to ensure that they should not risk their freedom.

THE ENGLISH SYSTEM

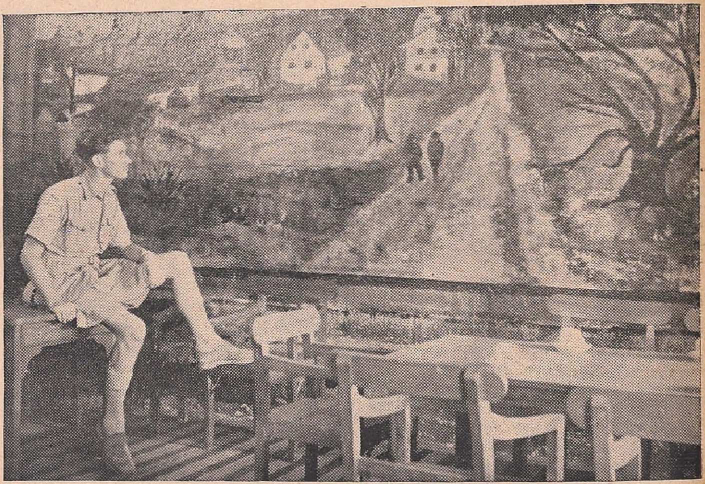
But the English do not underrate independence. Each society must develop freedom in its own way, and two different systems do not readily mix. Even if the English had not thought their system better than others, they would have resented interference from peoples with other systems; and they have actually thought their system the best of all, taken all in all and over long periods. The Dutch, the Swiss and the Danes developed excellent systems; and the Americans take a legitimate pride in theirs. But by contrast with the Italian, Spanish, German and French systems till the nineteenth century and even later the English system appeared the only successful one in a major European state, so that not only was Milton in the 17th century in Italy "counted happy to be born in such a place of philosophic freedom as they supposed England was," but Burke could in the 18th say not wholly falsely in speaking on conciliation with America,

> "Slavery they can have anywhere. It is a weed that grows in every soil. They may have it from Spain, they may have it from Prussia. But until you become lost to all feeling of your true interest and your natural dignity, freedom they can have from none but you. This is the commodity of price of which you have the monopoly."

The English have been jealous of their independence for the sake of their freedom. They would not have been able to develop their system of rights if a Spanish inquisition or a French Grand Monarchy or a Prussian bureaucracy had been able to tamper with their laws. For this reason the idea of freedom has been bound up with the idea of independence in their thinking. But because the liberties and immunities of persons are to the English mind the primary thing, and not the glory of the state, it will not be surprising if English thinkers and statesmen are the first to work out a system of mutual dependence between states by which the freedom of the citizens of all may be secured.

I shall return before I end this series to the possibilities of a true system of freedom for states; in my next talk, I shall turn to the English notion of freedom for a man's self.

—*The first talk in the series* Concept of Freedom, *broadcast recently from A.I.R., Madras.*



Sergt. R. G. Thomas, of 8, Maple Avenue, Yeiwsley, West Drayton, who is in charge of an M.T. Section in India, and the typical English village scene he has painted on a wall of the Sergeants' Mess at a Royal Air Force Unit in the Sind Desert.

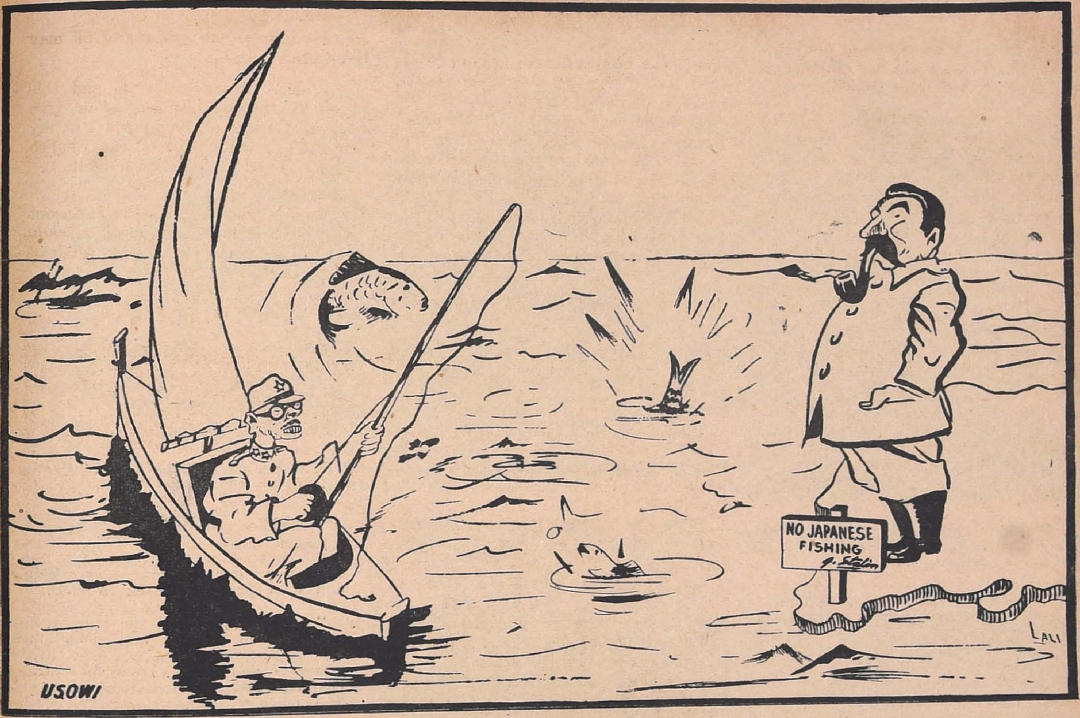
"OASIS" IN SIND DESERT!

MURAL paintings of the English countryside are on view to-day in a wild and arid spot on the edge of the Sind Desert. They decorate the mud-bricked walls of the Sergeants' mess at a flying boat station recently established on the shores of the Arabian Sea.

The murals are the work of Sergeant R. G. THOMAS, the N.C.O. in charge of transport, and painted in oils 'scrounged' from unmentionable sources. No professional artist is he, but his success with the brush can be measured by the fact that his fellow sergeants smack their lips in frustrated anticipation of a pint of mild and bitter every time they take a look at the "Weathercock Inn," which is featured prominently against a sunset over the Shropshire hills.

The walls of the mess are built of large uneven bricks as rough as breeze blocks. The artist coated this unpromising surface with varnish before embarking on his work of art, which he carried out during his leisure hours.

Sergeant THOMAS, who has served nine years in the R.A.F., has one ambition when the war is over—no, not to exhibit at the Royal Academy but to become a farmer. He is countryborn—his parents live in Shropshire—and he wants to get back to the land. He has a wife waiting for him at 8, Maple Avenue, Yeiwsley, West Drayton.



RUSSIANS CANCEL VALUABLE JAPANESE FISHING CONCESSIONS OFF SAKHALIN ISLAND

RUSSIA'S ADMIRATION FOR BRITAIN

RUSSIA'S immense admiration for Britain's technical supremacy is one of the many links which will continue to combine the two Allies after the war, reports Alaric Jacob, the Moscow correspondent of the *Daily Express*.

He says that Soviet people who admit they have much to learn from England, appreciate above all the special skill of the British worker. They admire his world record of maximum individual output and know that if Russia's population of 190 million had proportionately as many industrial technicians as Britain possesses, most of Stalin's post-war problems would vanish.

Alaric Jacob continues: The lines of production in which Russia seeks chiefly to emulate Britain are: development of light industry with electric power, her outstanding aeroplane production, her leadership in television and radio, railway electrification, ship-building, house-building and architectural development such as is seen in municipal settlements, and efficiency of the Royal Navy.

DEEP INTEREST IN BRITISH CULTURE

Apart from the technical side, the Russian people are deeply interested in British culture. "They want to learn more of our literature, our theatre, our games and the British people's way of life." They are eager to assimilate British ideas, for the British war effort has taught that they have much to learn from the West, concludes Alaric Jacob.

Among British industries, whose post-war output will benefit immensely from wartime research, London industrial circles make special mention of the radio industry. They point out that in this field, above all, British scientists have made great advances of incalculable aid to the Allied war effort, advances which, after the war, will re-act to the benefit of ordinary households throughout the world. Here, special attention is called to the potentialities of the thermionic valve. In fact, one expert visualizes a whole new range of industries and services centred round this valve after the war. The first and main practical development will be in cooking and heating. Here, thermionic heating does with heat what a transmitter valve in a radio station has done with sound. Two examples are given of its application. Firstly, it will enable a complete meal to be cooked in three minutes and secondly, it will enable houses to be warmed at an exceedingly low cost.

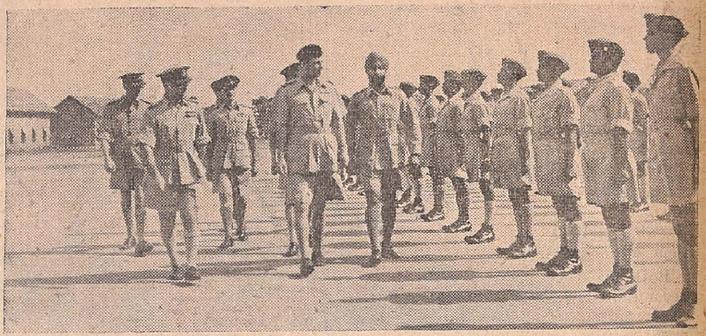
Thermionic valves vary in size, from four feet long and a foot and eight inches in diameter to handle 400,000 watts in a radio transmitter to one inch long and three-quarters of inch in diameter for the reception of very high frequencies. The valve in the three minutes cooker of to-morrow will be about nine inches long, they conclude.

(*Continued from page* 7.)

was "in the beginning of 1943." But there has been a decrease in the number of U-boats operating. This may be due, not to the lack of sufficient U-boats—for Germany has still a large number of U-boats in commission—but to the fact that Admiral Doenitz may be preparing for a major U-boat offensive. The Allies are prepared for this and they are capable of meeting any intensification of the U-boat offensive by the Germans with success.

INDIAN AIR FORCE DAY
CELEBRATION IN SOUTH INDIA

The Air Officer Commanding, Air Commodore P. H. Mackworth, C.B.E., D.F.C., addressing the parade.



The Air Officer Commanding, Air Commodore P. H. Mackworth, C.B.E., D.F.C., inspecting the parade.

THE eleventh anniversary of the formation of the Indian Air Force was celebrated on April 1st at an I.A.F. Recruits Training Centre somewhere in Southern India.

The Air Officer Commanding, Air Commodore P. H. Mackworth, C.B.E., D.F.C., who was met on arrival by the Officer Commanding the Training Centre, Wing Commander W. Berwick, D.C.M., received the General Salute and inspected the parade formed smartly up in wings in close column.

The Air Officer Commanding, addressing the parade, paid high tribute to the growing Service of India's youth which, formed for the defence of India, has expanded with such phenomenal rapidity.

The Air Commodore then took the salute as the parade marched past in columns of route.

Very marked was the smart bearing of these youthful Indian Airmen of but a few weeks' training who have rallied to their country's side in her time of need. At this Training School they receive their initiation into Service life and are taught the rudiments of the English language by R.A.F. instructors, some remaining for a lengthy course. From here the recruits are sent to more advanced training schools where they learn skilled trades, working again with men and officers of the Royal Air Force. When the war against the Axis aggressors is won, they will be fitted to take their place in the very wide field that civil aviation will open to them, for a score of essential trades are taught at these Air Force Training Centres.

Cast along the lines of the Royal Air Force, whose vast experience and efficient organization make it a fitting parent for a future independent Service, the Indian Air Force offers congenial occupations to its young men, good jobs for the future and pride that they are working as a team in such a great and vital Service.

The Commanding Officer congratulates the pilot of the bomber on making a 'happy landing.'

"FLYING" WARNING TO BOMBER CREW

A warning chalked in monster letters on the side of another aircraft which met them on their return to base probably saved a bomber crew in South India recently from a bad accident.

On taking off, one of the tyres of their aircraft burst. The accident was seen by the ground staff, and being unable to warn the pilot by radio, the Commanding Officer of his Unit, a Squadron Leader who comes from Werrington, Staffordshire, took off shortly before the aircraft was to land, with a warning chalked on the fuselage of his own 'plane.

"We heard the explosion just as we became airborne, bound on a recce," said the Flying Officer who was piloting the aircraft and who is a native of Middlesborough, Yorkshire." "It certainly 'shook' us. We could not decide exactly what had happened, but carried out our programme as scheduled and then proceeded back to base.

"As we approached the landing field, a Hurricane took off and made toward us. It formated on me to attract attention and then I saw the warning chalked in enormous letters on its side. The message read, 'Burst Tyre'.

"Having signalled back that I understood the message, I decided to crash land. I brought my aircraft in with wheels retracted and was lucky enough to make a perfect belly-landing. The aircraft received comparatively little damage and, beyond a shaking not a member of the crew received injury."

SOUTH INDIAN ATHLETE BECOMES SUBEDAR

Since the age of 15, Subedar B. D. Venkates has won over 20 cups and about 25 medals. Serving with an Artisan Works Company, Indian Engineers, in Assam, Subedar Venkates, who is an all-round athlete, has excelled in hockey, football, the high jump, long jump and hurdles.

Subedar Venkates has represented the All-India Combined Military and Civil Hockey team against many well-known combinations. He has also played in tournaments in Madras, Mysore and in Burma.

With the same enthusiasm with which he began his hockey career, playing for his school, the R.B.A.N.M. High School, Bangalore, Subedar Venkates now is determined to make his company team the best in the area.

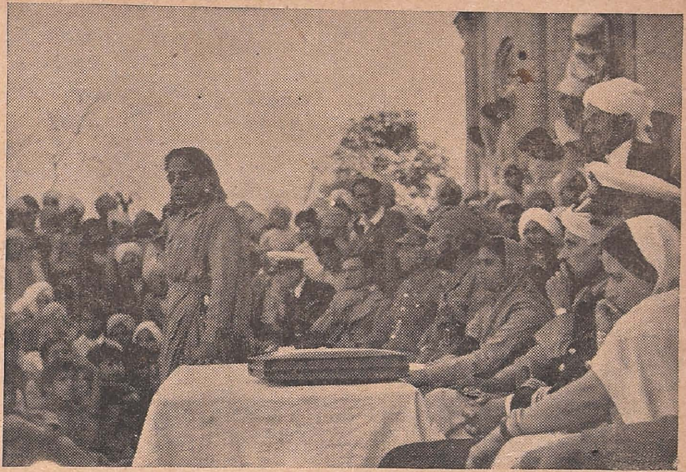
ELEVEN RELATIVES IN R.I.N.

A youth with eleven near relatives serving in the Royal Indian Navy proudly greeted a party of R.I.N. Officers and ratings during their recent goodwill tour of the Punjab and North-West Frontier Provinces. He himself is anxious to go into the Navy, and is studying at school with this object in view.

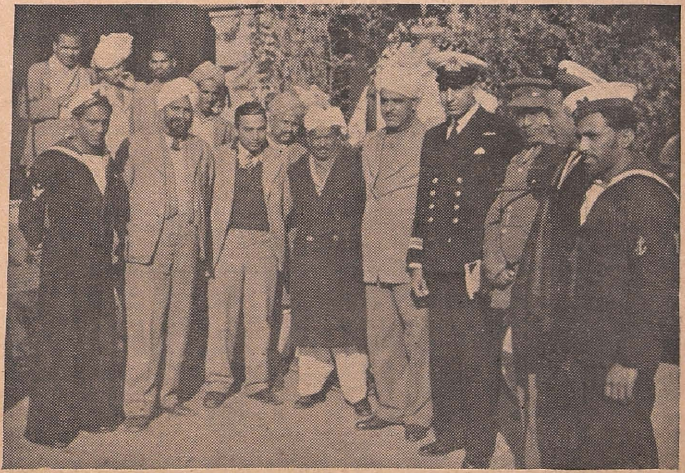
He was one of a great number of townsfolk and villagers whom the Naval goodwill parties met during their extensive tours.

Both Provinces have in recent years become increasingly Navy-minded, and the Punjab in particular provides many naval ratings. One object of the tour was to meet parents and relatives of serving personnel, to convey to them the greetings of the Service and to acquaint them with the progress of their sailor sons and kinsmen. Remote villages as well as towns and district headquarters were visited.

Two parties were engaged in the tours, one headed by Commander L. H. Peppe, R.I.N.R., a former Executive Officer of H.M.I.S. *Bahadur*, the Senior Boys' Training Establishment and the other by Lieut.-Commander H. M. S. Choudri, R.I.N., a senior Indian Officer who took part in the operations against Italian East Africa.



Begum Shameem, an Honorary Assistant Recruiting Officer in her area, is here seen explaining the aims and objects of the Royal Indian Navy Goodwill Mission to a large gathering at Khanna in Jullunder area.



ROYAL INDIAN NAVY GOODWILL TOUR.—To foster goodwill between the Royal Indian Navy and the people, and to make personal contacts with relatives of men serving in the Royal Indian Navy, a party of Naval Officers and ratings, under Lieutenant-Commander. H M. S. Choudri, R.I.N., recently toured extensive areas in the Punjab.

Royal Indian Navy Goodwill Party at the entrance of a school in Ludhiana where Lieutenant-Commander Choudri addressed a large meeting.

VETERAN SOUTH INDIANS STILL DOING THEIR BIT

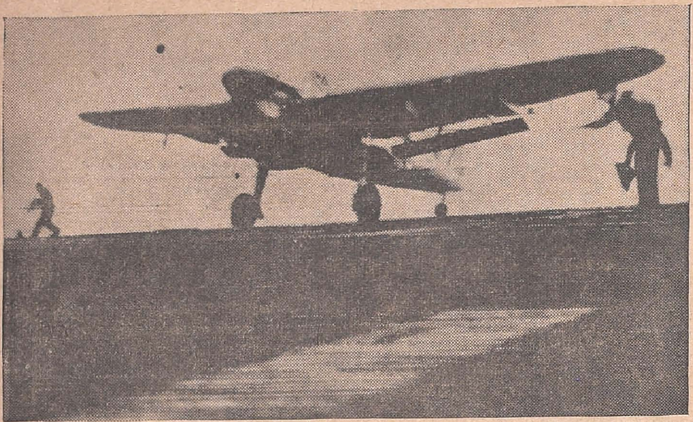
Five veterans from South India, whose combined ages total 224 years, have staged a "come-back" to the Army. They are No. 16474 Jemadar Anthoni Muthu (aged 41), No. 16489 Q. M. Havildar M. Palaniyandi (aged 47), No. 61129 Havildar Manickam (aged 49), No. 61136 Naik Jeevaratnam (aged 45) and No. 61345 Naik Antoniswami (aged 42).

After several years retirement from the Army these men volunteered for active service and are to-day with an Artisan Works Company of the Indian Engineers in Northern Assam. It is largely due to the experience and energy of the veterans under their British officers that raw recruits have been transformed into efficient tradesmen-soldiers.

The unit is a combination of Madrassis, Malayalis, Mahrattas and Bengalis who, using Urdu as a common language, and under the guidance of the older men, are working together with a grand team spirit.

During 18 years service with the Madras Sappers and Miners, Jemadar Anthoni Muthu served in Egypt, Palestine, North-West Frontier, Shanghai, Burma and Iraq. G.M. Havildar M. Palaniyandi had 12 years' service and Naik Jeevaratnam and Naik Antoniswami have had 15 and 18 years, respectively. Before his retirement after 21 years in the Army, Havildar Manickam saw service in Egypt, North-West Frontier and in Burma and was awarded three medals with clasp.

For endurance and fitness these veterans more than hold their own with the younger men of the company and since joining the unit not one of them has spent a day in hospital.



One of the first pictures of the Baracuda, the Navy's new torpedo bomber. In the photograph the aircraft is about to take off from an aircraft carrier.

The daring attack on the German battleship Tirpitz *in the Atlen Fjord on April 3 was carried out, by Baracudas flying through a 'flak canyon.'* (A radio photograph.)

I.A.F. PHOTOGRAPHER'S FINE WORK

From an I.A.F. air-conditioned photographic trailer tucked away in a small clearing close to an airfield on the Burma border, an average of 16,000 prints are turned out each month by a photographic section of the Indian Air Force. The section is part of a squadron of the Third Tactical Air Force commanded by S/Ldr. Mehar Singh, D.S.O., the first officer of the I.A.F., to be so decorated.

Vertical and oblique photographs of enemy occupied territory are taken by the Squadron's pilots with specially fitted cameras installed in their aircraft. Photographic reconnaissance is one of the most difficult and hazardous of all flying operations which often goes unsung. Pilots go out in all kinds of weather, flying over valleys and jungle-clad mountains to obtain records of enemy activity and bring back exposed film to the waiting photographers. Speed is all essential and processing begins within a few minutes of the aircraft's landing.

Describing his work, Corporal M. Rashi, who has been in the I.A.F. for three and a half years and who comes from Rawalpindi, said "My section works on a watch basis and we have turned out as many as 1,500 prints in 24 hours. Our job starts right from the unloading of the cameras, the developing and rapid drying of the film to the making of hundreds of contact prints for urgent delivery to Army and R.A.F. units."

VETERINARY OFFICERS' TRAINING CENTRE

The first training course for officers of the Indian Army Veterinary Corps has begun at a centre somewhere in India. During a two months' stay at this well-equipped training establishment these officers will receive basic military training from experienced instructors and sufficient technical knowledge to deal with conditions and diseases of animals on the Burma front.

The Indian officers are graduates of the Punjab and the Madras Veterinary Colleges who have undergone a minimum four years' course in veterinary surgery. There are also a number of British officers who arrived in India recently.

In addition to training officers for the I.A.V.C. this centre also provides a four months' course for sowar dressers who look after the Army's horses, mules, donkeys, camels, buffaloes and cattle. These men draw tradesmen's pay. They are taught to ride and to become animal orderlies. There are also combatant animal attendants—sowars trained to groom, feed and exercise animal patients at veterinary hospitals and convalescent depots.

At the same centre there is a one-month animal first-aid course which is largely attended by non-veterinary men of all ranks and a 12-week course for the training of British and Indian other ranks as farriers.

R.A.F. MAN'S JUNGLE CINEMA

Mobile cinema units are bringing the latest films to servicemen on the Burma border. Tightly-packed crowds of soldiers and airmen gather to watch them in the jungle clearings, the small silver screen making a stabbing white blob in the tropic darkness.

Among those who operate the mobile film units are a R.A.F. warrant officer who is a cinema manager in civil life.

The units are run mainly by the army. They trek to forward areas to entertain troops and airmen. Each has a personnel of seven, who are in charge of two self-contained trucks which often average nearly 2,000 miles a month, the operators enduring much the same hardships as the troops they set out to entertain.

W.A.R.P.C.

HER EXCELLENCY THE HON'BLE LADY HOPE inspected a rally of the Women's A.R.P. Corps in Madras on Tuesday (April 18), at the Island Grounds, and presented the Corps Flag to them.

The following general account of the W.A.R.P.C. in Madras will be read with interest:—

In 1941, it was felt that a women's branch of the A.R.P. was necessary in order to acquaint the womenfolk about the simple protective measures—what they should do in the event of air raids. Mrs. C. J. Nicolls was the fi st Commandant of the newly-formed Corps She did much towards organizing it on a sound basis. This was ably continued by Mrs. A. A. Hayles. When Mrs. Hayles was suddenly called away on other duty, Mrs. P. Parijatham Naidu was appointed in her place.

The organization has its branches in several mofussil towns. There are at present 16 centres. In most of these places, the A.R.P. has closed down, but Governme it felt that these branches of the W.A.R.P.C. were carrying on work of some special importance and desired to utilize the fellowship they brought about for better and more useful purposes in times of peace—somewhat on the lines of the Women's Institutes in England. So they decided to utilize this Corps as a measure of post-war reconstruction and have permitted its continuance on a permanent basis, after the hostilities cease.

At present in the City and in such of the places where the A.R.P. continues, the us al propaganda about black-out, refuge room, lighting restrictions, etc., is being carried on, but in addition to this other useful work has been undertaken in some centres. For instance, in one centre, adult education work is being done) in another, members co-operate with the municipal authorities in tackling the beggar problems; in yet another, members help Health department officials in combating epidemics.

It is hoped more voluntary women workers would join the Corps and help the important work it is doing.

The Corps' motto is *STRIVE AND SERVE.*

WAR DIARY

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

12TH APR.—Almost 2,000 American planes were over Germany in daylight yesterday and attacked Oschersleben, Bernburg, Rostock, Siettin and Arnimswalde. One hundred and twenty-six German planes were shot down. Last night aircraft of the Bomber Command attacked Aachen and Hanover.

Since the war began 49,876 people have been killed in air raids on Britain and 64,000 injured.

An air-raid alert was sounded in to-night in the London area.

13TH APR.—Last night there was a little enemy air activity over south-east England, the Home counties and the Greater London area.

Lieutenant-General A. F. Harding, who has been appointed Chief of General Staff to General Alexander.

Allied bombers heavily bombed Augsburg, Oberhausen, Lechfeld, Schweinfurt and Osnabruck in Germany.

The Under Secretary of War, Mr. Henry Stimson, stated that a new phase of intensive air campaign over Germany had begun. "The last two weeks have seen the full use of American and British air power. From 1,500 to 2.000 aircraft at a time have been battering Nazi centres of aircraft factories and installations," he said.

14TH APR.—An air raid alert was sounded in London area on Thursday.

Mosquito bombers last night attacked objectives in Berlin and western Germany.

15TH APR.—Airfields in Germany were attacked by Allied bombers.

16TH APR.—Sir Stafford Cripps, Minister for Aircraft Production appealed for industrial discipline "for that final assault upon our enemy in Europe."

17TH APR.—After nearly five years of war, Germany still has 5.500.000 front-line troops and had increased her total strength from five million men at the beginning of the war to 7,3.34,000 according to the latest Allied intelligence reports.

17TH APR.—From midnight to-night foreign diplomats and couriers are banned from leaving Britain and their official "bags" are subject to censorship. This restriction was announced by the Foreign Office.

18TH APR.—Nearly 2,000 American aircraft attacked targets in Berlin and other areas in Germany.

Mr. Churchill answered questions in the Commons about the world organization for peace and the League of Nations.

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THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

12TH APR.—The largest Naval Appropriation Bill in the American history was introduced in the House of Representatives. It carried 32,647,000,000 dollar appropriation for the Navy for the year beginning July 1st next.

It is stated that President Roosevelt has decided to send Mr. Henry Wallace, Vice-President, to China on an important work.

13TH APR.—Mr. Henry L. Stimson, the United States Secretary for War, disclosed that American army casualties up to March 23, totalled 134,632 including the killed, wounded, missing and prisoners.

The U. S. Secretary of State, Mr. Cordell Hull denounced as infamous any propaganda urging Britain and the United States to join with Hitler against Russia.

14TH APR.—The House of Representatives to-day unanimously passed the second Navy Appropriation Bill.

15TH APR.—It is reported that the U.S. Vice-President, Mr. Henry L. Wallace, may confer with Mr. Churchill and Marshal Stalin during his projected trip to China.

17TH APR.—The Bureau of Mines of the United States announced that U.S. production of primary aluminium in 1943 totalled 920,179 tons, exceeding the previous peak reached in 1942 by nearly 17 per cent.

INDIAN HOSPITAL IN CYPRUS.—The well equipped Indian hospital in Cyprus, is situated on the seashore where patients rapidly regain their health.

L/Nk. Joginder Singh is wheeled in an invalid chair by Sister Ammal.

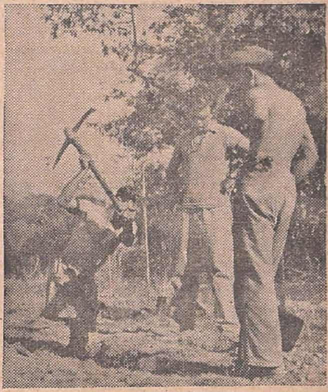
INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

12TH APR.—Fighting is intensifying in the arc from the immediate north to northeast of Imphal within a radius of 8 miles.

"This war is not over yet and it may be a long time before we can win that complete victory which we must have" observed His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief Sir Claude Auchinleck in Lahore.

The Maharaja of Kashmir, India's representative on the War Cabinet reached London.

13TH APR.—A position was captured by the Allied troops in Imphal plain and the Chinese advance continues in the Mogaung Valley. Deputy Chief of Staff, South-East Asia Command, gave a broadcast talk on Assam-Burma Front.



FIRST AIRBORNE LANDINGS IN BURMA.—Columns of General Slim's 14th Army were flown in and landed 200 miles behind the Japanese lines by Troop Carrier Command, South-East Asia. American, British and Dominion pilots took part in this operation. Not a single transport aircraft was lost.

One of the advance party of Royal Air Force ground and crown at our newly established airfield inside Burma, watched by Commanding Officer and an L.A.C., as he digs a slit trench.

Mr. Henry L. Stimson, Under Secretary of War, made a statement on the Jap entry into the Manipur State. It is revealed that Lord Louis Mountbatten has visited the Imphal front.

14TH APR.—There was some increase in enemy activity on the Arakan front during April 12. During the night of April 12–13 the Japanese made a determined attack on one of the Allied positions southwest of Buthudaung.

O.T.S. PARADE

The caption of the picture (bottom left) of the O.T.S. Passing out Parade, Bangalore, appearing on page 13 of the *Madras War Review* of April 7, 1944, should read as "Col. Felton and Comdt. of School inspecting 'A' Company on parade," and not as printed.

15TH APR.—Fighting is now taking place in the Imphal plain itself and the enemy is within 8 miles from Imphal says to-day's *South-east Asia Command Communiqué.*

16TH APR.—North-east of Imphal plain Allied troops captured an important hill feature. The Imphal plain is entirely in Allied hands and fighting is confined to the neighbouring hills.

Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, Supreme Allied Commander, South-east Asia, has transferred his Headquarters from New Delhi to Ceylon.

17TH APR.—North-east of Imphal plain Allied positions improved. Allied operations to clear the Kohima-Dimapur road have continued effectively with the capture of further important positions from the Japanese.

The 14th Session of the National Defence Council opened this morning at the Viceroy's House, New Delhi. His Excellency the Viceroy presided.

The British Air Ministry has announced the following new appointments: Air Vice-Marshal Alan Lees to be Air Officer-in-charge of the Administration Air Command, South-east Asia and to be Air Marshall, Air Vice-Marshall Albert Durston to be Air Officer Commanding a group in South-east Asia Air Command.

18TH APR.—Major-General W. D. C. Lentaigne has been appointed to succeed the late Major-General Wingate as leader of the Chindits now operating behind the Japanese lines in Burma.

Major-General George E. Stratemeyers, Eastern Air Command and U.S.A.A.F. Headquarters have been transferred from New Delhi to the Calcutta area.

To-day's South-east Asia Command Communiqué reveals among other facts that Andamans were attacked by the Allied aircraft.

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RUSSIA AND FINLAND

12TH APR.—The Russians have captured Sem-Kolodezey, Akmanay, Maracha-Kangil, Falliceni, Grigoriopol, Tiraspol and hundreds of other localities.

It is stated that the Finnish Parliament which meets to-day is expected to reject the Soviet armistice terms.

13TH APR.—The Soviet troops have occupied the capital of the Crimea *Simferopol*, Feodosia, Eupatoria and Ovidiopol.

14TH APR.—The Russian forces have captured Tarnopol, Bakhchisarai, Alushta, Alma, Sudak, Akmechet, Karasubazar, Sakhi, Zuya and hundreds of other places.

15TH APR.—General Nicolai Federovilch Vatutin is dead.

The Russian forces have captured over 60 places in Crimea including Albot. The Red Army has almost finished the war on Russian soil.

16TH APR.—The Red Army captured *Yalta*, Alupka, Livadia and several other localities.

17TH APR.—The battle of Sebastopol has entered its second day against intensified German resistance.

18TH APR.—The Russians have captured Balaclava and other places.

ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

13TH APR.—The Anzio Bridgehead was generally quiet. There was Allied patrol activity on all the fronts.

King Victor Emmanuel has decided to retire when Rome is captured.

13TH APR.—Patrol clashes occurred on all fronts. Small-scale attacks against troops of the Eighth Army were repulsed.

14TH APR.—Germans shelled Anzio beachhead. All the battle areas were quiet with no changes in positions.

15TH APR.—Patrols were active on all fronts. Allied artillery inflicted casualties on the enemy.

16TH APR.—On all fronts Allied patrols were active engaging the enemy, inflicting casualties and taking prisoners.

17TH APR.—Cassino remains quiet. Allied artillery heavily shelled German positions in Milo.

17TH APR.—Marshal Badoglio tendered his Cabinet's resignation to King Victor Emmanuel and the King has asked Badoglio to form a new Ministry representative of all parties.

18TH APR.—Patrol clashes were more frequent on all fronts. Fifth Army troops on the bridgehead re-captured a flank outpost.

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VICHY, FREE FRANCE AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

12TH APR.—Allied planes attacked military objectives at Weiner Newstadt, in Austria, Courtral, Coxyde and Hain St. Pierre in Belgium, Hirsu and other places in France.

General Emile Marie Bethonard has been appointed French Chief of Staff for National Defence.

13TH APR.—Allied planes bombed military objectives on the coast of northern France and Budapest, the capital of Hungary.

14TH APR.—Military targets in France and Denmark were attacked by the Allied planes.

15TH APR.—Allied bombers attacked Bucharest, the Hungarian capital, and Ploesti, in Rumania.

General Giraud called on the French troops to remain united.

16TH APR.—Allied aircraft bombed Belgrade, the Yugoslav capital, and continued bombing of Bucharest and Ploesti.

17TH APR.—Military installations in Pas De Calais area were attacked by United States bombers.

Allied bombers heavily attacked Sofia and Belgrade.

THE NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

13TH APR.—The United States Secretary of State, Mr. Cordell Hull, said conversations were proceeding between the Allies regarding the supply by neutrals of vital war commodities to the Axis.

An Anglo-American note was presented to the Swedish Foreign Office protesting against the export from Sweden to Germany of ball-bearings.

A German Trade Mission has arrived in Lisbon.

14TH APR.—The Swedish Parliament will discuss the Anglo-American note to Sweden on the export of ball-bearings to Germany at a secret session said the Swedish Foreign Minister, M. Gunther.

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THE FAR EAST

12TH APR.—Nothing short of the destruction of the Japanese Empire would suffice, declared the United States Navy Commander-in-Chief.

General Sir Maitland Wilson, Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in the Mediterranean, visited the Fifth Army, where he witnessed the heavy fighting on the Cassino front.

Truk, Ponape and Paramushiro were attacked by Allied bombers.

13TH APR.—Rabaul, Wewak and Bougainville were bombed by the Allied aircraft.

The United States Secretary of War, Mr. Henry Stimson, said that more than 26,000 Japanese dead had been counted in recent months in the south-west and central Pacific.

14TH APR.—American bombers bombed Kurile islands. Places attacked were Paramushiro, Shunizu, Shiahkotan and Matua.

15TH APR.—Australian troops have captured Bogadjim in New Guinea and are advancing on Madang.

16TH APR.—United States aircraft attacked Matua Island in the Kurile group and Ponape and other islands in the Eastern Carolines and objectives in Marshall Islands.

17TH APR.—Supply areas at Soe, in Timour, objectives in Rabaul in New Britain, Attape in New Guinea and islands in Truk area were attacked by the Allied aircraft.

18TH APR.—Hollandia in New Guinea, Dublon, Fefan, Tmoen islands in Truk Atoll, Ponape, Kolpang, etc., were attacked by the Allied bombers.

The article on "China's Contribution" published on page 18 in the last issue of the *Madras War Review* was a talk broadcast from A.I.R., Madras.

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